AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims as follows: cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice. Amend claims 13-20 as shown below to correct grammatical errors and to place the claims in better condition for examination. Add claims 21-22.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of the claims and indicates the current status of all pending claims in the application.

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Presently amended) A method for making a metal stent, comprising ~~steps~~:

(a) compounding a mixture ~~of~~ comprising at least one metal alloy and at least one polymer binder;

(b) molding ~~said~~ the mixture to form a composite structure comprising a strut member and a supporting member;

(c) removing the binder from the composite structure; and

(~~c~~d) sintering ~~said~~ the ~~molded~~ composite structure.

14. (Presently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising ~~a step of~~ removing ~~said~~ at least a portion of the supporting member ~~or substantial amount of said supporting member~~ from the sintered composite structure.

15. (Presently amended) The method as in ~~of~~ claim 13 or 14, further comprising ~~an~~ etching the surface of the ~~step for forming porous surface of said~~ stent.

16. (Presently amended) The method as in ~~of~~ claims 13 or 14 ~~and 15~~, further comprising heating the stent to alter ~~a heat treating step at a temperature below the melting point of said metal alloy for altering the~~ a surface ~~configurations~~ or ~~the~~ mechanical ~~properties~~ property of ~~said~~ the stent.

17. (Presently amended) A method for making a modulated stent, comprising ~~steps~~:

(a) compounding a mixture comprising ~~of~~ at least one metal alloy and at least one polymer binder;

(b) molding ~~said~~ the mixture to form two or more composite structures, each composite structure comprising a strut member and a supporting member;

(c) removing the binder from each of the composite structures;

(~~c~~d) sintering ~~said~~ the ~~molded~~ composite structures;

(~~d~~) ~~removing said supporting member or substantial amount of said supporting member;~~

(e) aligning two or more ~~said~~ of the sintered composite structures on a mandrel;

(f) fastening ~~said~~ the ~~aligned~~ composite structures together to form the modulated stent; and

(g) removing ~~said~~ the modulated stent from the mandrel.

18. (Presently amended) The method as in ~~of~~ claim 17 or 20, further comprising ~~an~~ etching the surface of the ~~step for forming porous surface of said~~ stent.

19. (Presently amended) The method as in ~~of~~ claims 17 ~~and~~ ~~18~~ or 20, further comprising heating the stent to alter ~~a heat treating step at a temperature below the melting point of said metal alloy for altering the~~ a surface ~~configurations~~ or ~~the~~ mechanical ~~properties~~ property of ~~said~~ the stent.

20. (Presently amended) The method of claim ~~19~~17, further comprising ~~a mechanical manipulating step for altering the surface configuration or the mechanical properties of said stent~~ removing at least a portion of the supporting member from the sintered composite structures either before the composite structures are aligned on the mandrel or after the modulated stent is removed from the mandrel.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising placing at least one metal powder on the surface of the stent before heating.

22. (New) The method of claim 19, further comprising placing at least one metal powder on the surface of the stent before heating.